

Remarks

Claims 1-8 and 11-16 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 17, drawn to a non-elected invention, has been cancelled.

Claims 1-8 and 11-16 have been rejected under 37 CFR § 112, ¶ 1. The Office contends that the specification is non-enabling. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the amount of curing catalyst is effective to cure the SMC composition in the heated mold, and that the amount of inhibitor is effective to prevent premature cure at room temperature. Support for the amendments may be found in pages 19 and 20 of the specification. Claim 15 has been amended to recite that it is the SMC composition which is cured, and further requires the catalyst to comprise t-amylperoxybenzoate in major part.

The claims are clearly enabled by the specification, which sets forth ranges of catalyst and inhibitor. The specification further indicates that larger or smaller amounts may be used when dictated by the curable SMC. *See*, i.e. page 19, “0.01 parts” (line 17) and page 20 (more than 5 parts) (lines 3-5). The claim is clearly enabled. In this respect, only objective enablement is required. *In re Marzocchi*, 169 USPQ 367 (CCPA 1971). If the Office is to allege non-enablement, it must provide technically sound reasons therefore. The cure of SMC compositions can be easily measured by techniques such as DSC, and therefore there is not any issue of undue experimentation; any experimentation of would be simple, routine, and expedient. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 1 is solicited.

Claims 1-8, 15 and 16 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2 as indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to recite what the “effective amounts” are effective for. Claim 15 has been amended similarly, and also to include t-amylperoxybenzoate in major part as the curing catalyst. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2 is solicited.

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for Allowance, and respectfully request a Notice to that effect. If the Examiner believes that further discussion will advance the prosecution of the Application, she is highly encouraged to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) In a process for preparing door skins and other door components by the molding of sheet molding compound containing an unsaturated, curable molding resin in a heated mold under pressure, the improvement comprising:

selecting, as a cure catalyst composition,

a) a catalyst component containing t-amylperoxybenzoate in major part relative to the total weight of the catalyst component, said catalyst component present in an amount effective to cure said sheet molding compound in said heated mold [an effective amount of a catalyst component containing a major amount, based on the amount of catalyst, of t-amylperoxybenzoate], and

b) an [effective] amount of a polymerization inhibitor composition effective to substantially prevent cure of said sheet molding composition at room temperature.

15. (Amended) A compression molded SMC door skin or molded part, comprised of the cured reaction product of an SMC composition containing a cure catalyst comprising t-amylperoxybenzoate in major part [composition containing a catalyst system], said cure catalyst present in an amount effective to cure said SMC composition [doorskin] in less than one minute at 150°C.

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